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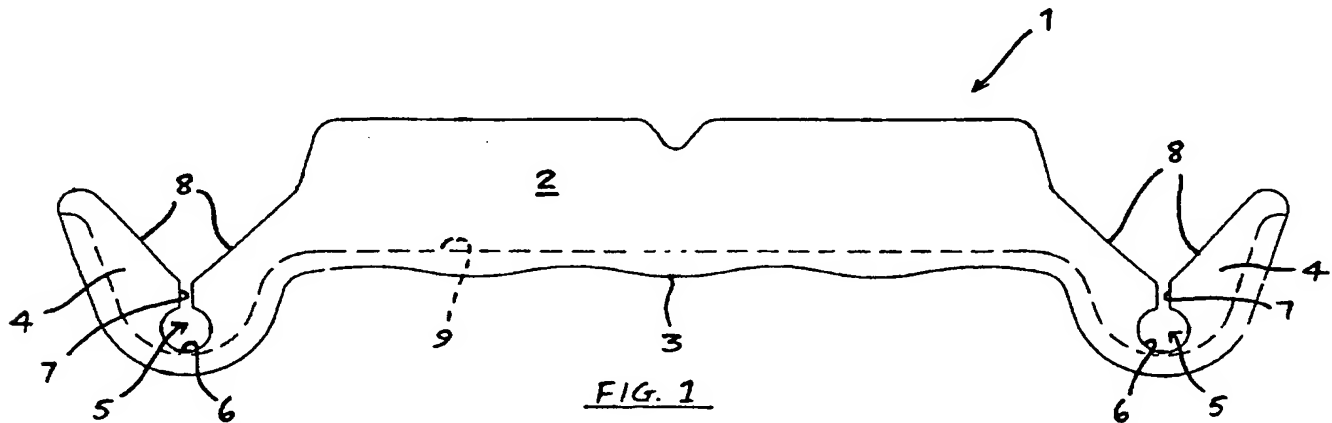
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GB 2218901 A GB 2153212 A EP 0085524 A1  
WO 92/22229 A1 US 4666203 A US 3680752 A

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(54) Handle grip

(57) A detachable and re-usable handle grip (1) suitable for use with a bag having a pair of handle loops, comprises an elongate portion (2) grippable by a hand of a user and means (4) located at the ends of the elongate portion (2) and arranged to receive respective ones of a pair of handle loops of a bag in spaced relationship with respect to one another. In a preferred embodiment the handle loops are releasably returned in key-hole slots (5) so that the grip (1) cannot be readily detached from the handle loops of a bag when the latter is in a relaxed condition. The grip may have a central longitudinal groove (9) to receive handle loops of a bag in close side-by-side relationship.



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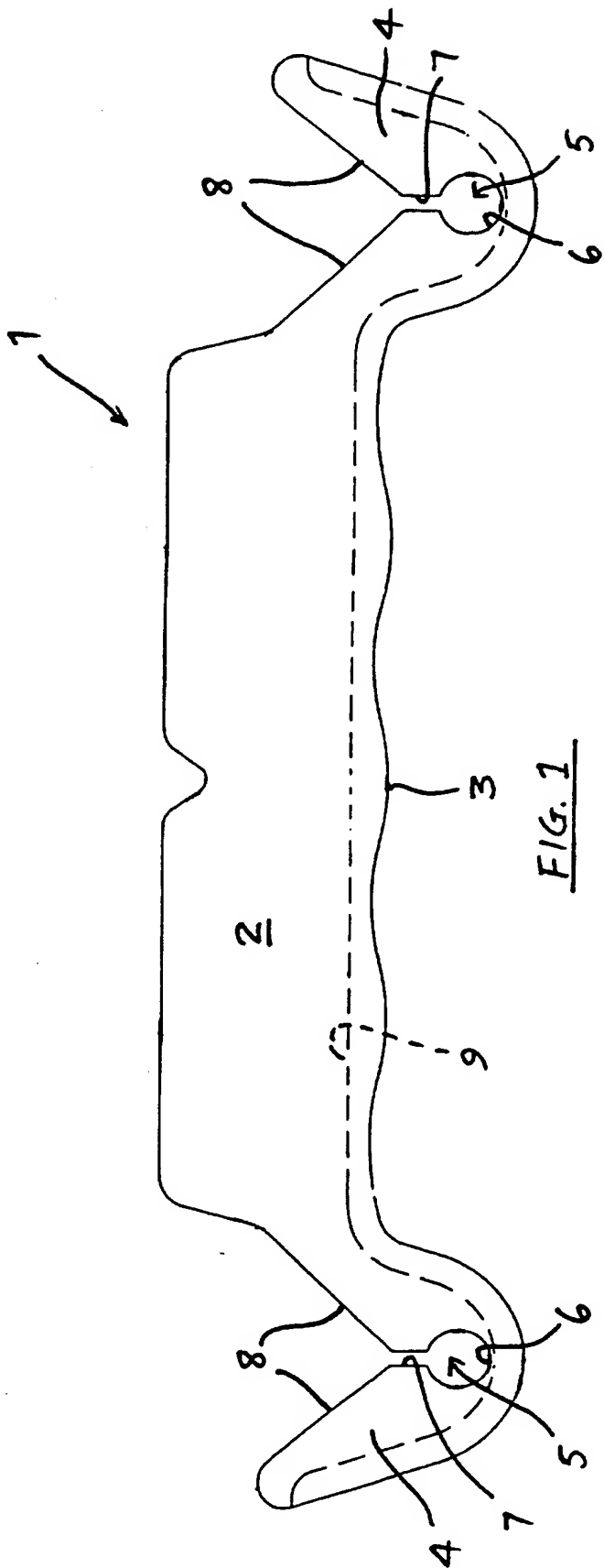


FIG. 1

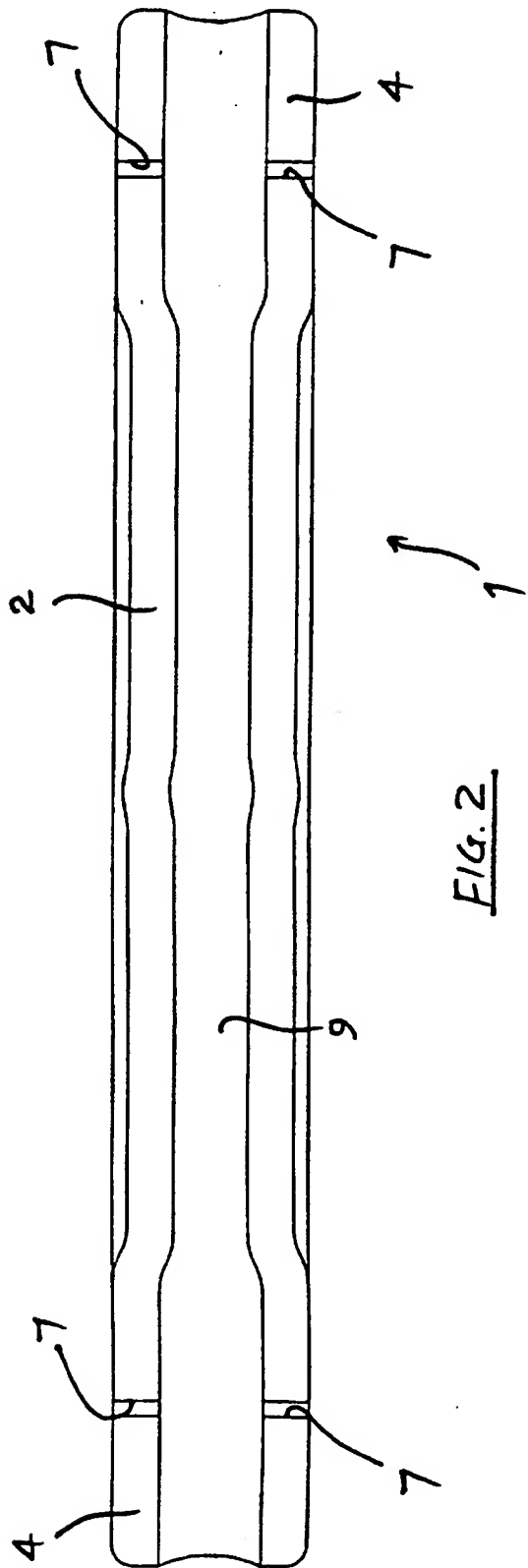


FIG. 2

HANDLE GRIPDESCRIPTION

5           This invention relates to a handle grip and concerns especially, but not exclusively, a detachable handle grip for use with plastics shopping or carrier bags or the like.

10           It is common these days for shopping to be carried in bags made of plastics sheeting cut, folded, gusseted and welded into a generally oblong shape, with two wider sides, two narrower ends, and a base closing the bottom of the bag.       These bags  
15       conventionally have positioned along the top edge defining the open mouth of the bag a pair of opposed handles by which they can be carried, each handle being in effect a simple loop of the plastics material formed either as an extension of the relevant  
20       side or an elongate aperture near the top thereof. In either case, the strip of material forming the handle proper, namely that part gripped by a user's hand, is necessarily rather narrow and sometimes fairly flimsy. After a while, the handles can tend to cut into a  
25       user's hand. It would be advantageous if the bags could be provided with something which would provide a firmer and more secure hold, as well as preventing the bag handle from cutting into a user's hand.

30           Various suggestions have been put forward as to the construction of separate grips, such as moulded plastics handles, to which the bag itself could be attached detachably, possibly by some sort of clip arrangement or by using the bag's own in-built  
35       handles, which would provide a more comfortable, and a stronger, means enabling the bag to be held by a

user hand, and the present invention relates to a novel form of detachable handle grip to which a carrier or other bag may be attached by its own handles.

5

While some of the previously-proposed detachable handle grips have been quite successful, their use quite often has a number of minor but irritating drawbacks. For example, they often require the bag handles to be supported side by side along the length of an elongate channel member, so that of necessity the opposed sides of the top edge of the bag are always together whenever the bag is carried and, thus, the mouth of the bag is closed, making it difficult to put anything else in it without having to put the bag down and disengage at least one of the handle loops of the bag from the grip. Another irritating drawback is that when the bag is put down and the relatively "limp" material, such as plastic sheeting, from which the bag is made, collapses under gravity, there is a significant tendency for the handle loops of the bag to disengage from the carrying grip, becoming detached therefrom, so that the user then has to go through the fiddly procedure of re-attaching the handle loops to the grip.

The present invention suggests one form of novel structure of detachable carrying handle grip which does not suffer from the disadvantages associated with known handle grips discussed above, which can be used in such a way that it supports the bag in a generally unclosed state and which, optionally, has the bag handle loops attached thereto in such a way that, while indeed detachable, nevertheless renders the loops less prone to becoming detached therefrom.

In a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a detachable, preferably re-usable, handle grip for use with a bag having a pair of handle loops, which grip comprises an elongate portion grippable by a hand of a user and means located at the ends of the elongate portion and arranged to receive respective ones of a pair of handle loops of a bag in spaced relationship with respect to one another.

10 In a preferred embodiment of inventive handle grip, such means comprises a generally hook-shaped member at each end of the grippable portion of the grip.

15 Preferably, such means comprises an arrangement whereby the grip cannot be detached readily from the handle loops of the bag when the latter is in a relaxed condition, such that the grip does not become detached from the handle loops when the bag is not being carried by the user, although it can be detached therefrom by a user as and when necessary.

25 In the preferred embodiment described briefly above but to be described in more detail hereinbelow, such an arrangement is provided by the hook-shaped member at each end of the grippable portion of the grip having an eyelet with a restricted access slot for preventing ready detachment of the grip from the handle loops of the bag in its relaxed condition.

30 A second aspect of the invention provides a detachable, preferably re-usable, handle grip for use with a bag having a pair of handle loops, which grip comprises a portion grippable by a hand of a user, means arranged to receive the pair of handle loops of the bag and an arrangement for preventing ready

detachment of the grip from the handle loops when the latter are in a relaxed condition.

5 Said means may be arranged to receive the pair of handle loops of the bag in side-by-side relationship, for example, by employing a channel-shaped portion. Alternatively, said means may be in accordance with the one aspect of the invention defined above, or any variants thereof, wherein the handle loops of the bag  
10 are in spaced relationship with respect to one another.

Thus, the invention provides a detachable handle grip for use with, say, a plastics carrier bag having  
15 handle loops. This bag may be of any sort but is most likely to be that provided by retail outlets for their customers to carry away the goods which they have just purchased.

20 The detachable handle grip of the first aspect of the invention is of generally elongate form, conveniently about as long as a carrier bag is wide.

One embodiment of inventive handle grip has  
25 hook-shaped bag handle loop-receiving means at each end of a grippable portion and such means may have a "non-return" arrangement such that a bag handle loop can easily be fed into and received within an associated eyelet but cannot be so easily removed  
30 therefrom.

Although it may be possible to use some form of spring-loaded retaining clip, such as that found on a safety harness or the like, it is preferred instead to  
35 design the loop-receiving means so that any associated eyelet has a keyhole shape, namely wider on the inside

but with access only via a narrow slot which may be tapered inwardly, such that a bag handle loop can easily be fed into the slot and then guided through the increasing or increased restriction to, and  
5 located within, the wider inside but cannot nearly so easily be removed therefrom. This is because once in the wider inside of the keyhole shape of the eyelet, it tends to expand and then cannot readily pass back through the narrow slot.

10

The grip may be made of any suitable material, such as a relatively rigid plastics material, for example, a heavy duty polyethylene or polypropylene, and is conveniently formed with a channel-shaped body  
15 portion at the ends of which are the handle loop-receiving means. With such a channel construction, bag handle loops may, if required, be disposed in side-by-side relationship along the channel, rather spaced apart in the means at either end of the  
20 grippable portion, so that, if required, the grip may be used with a bag having its mouth closed.

A preferred embodiment of handle grip in accordance with the invention, will now be described  
25 by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawing in which Figures 1 and 2 are respective side elevational and plan views of the grip.

Referring to the drawing, a grip, indicated generally at 1, for use with a plastics carrier bag (not shown) having a pair of opposed carrying handle loops, comprises an elongate portion 2 which can be gripped by a hand of a user. The underside of the  
35 portion 2 is shaped at 3 to fit the user's hand.

At each end of the elongate grip portion 2 is located means 4 for receiving a respective one of the pair of carrying handle loops of a carrier bag, such means being generally hook-shaped and defining an eyelet 5 of generally keyhole shape.

The keyhole-shaped eyelet 5 has a circular aperture 6 and a restricted access slot 7 at the base of a pair of inwardly-tapering, downwardly-extending surfaces 8.

The grip 7 is generally channel-shaped, so that the elongate grip portion 2 is provided with an inner longitudinal groove 9, as is each of the generally hook-shaped means 4 at each end of that grip portion 2.

In use of the grip 1, each of a pair of handle loops of a plastics carrier bag is received in a respective aperture 6 of the keyhole-shaped eyelet 5, via the tapering surfaces 8 and restricted access slot 7. When the portion 2 is gripped by a user's hand and the carrier bag is lifted by the user, the handle loops of the bag are spaced apart, as a consequence of the spaced relationship of the means 4 at each end of the portion 2, so that the carrier bag is in a generally unclosed state.

When the carrier bag is put down by the user and the latter's hand is removed from the portion 2, the pair of handle loops of the bag assume a relaxed condition in which the grip 1 is retained thereon by virtue of the restricted access slots 7 preventing the respective handle loops from exiting from the circular aperture 6.



However, the user may, if desired, readily remove the grip 1 from the bag by suitably manipulating the bag handle loops through the slots 7, so that the grip can be re-used with another carrier bag.

5

Alternatively, and if a user wishes to carry a bag in a generally closed state, then the handle loops of the bag can be located in generally side-by-side relationship in the longitudinal groove 8 extending along at least the grip portion 2.

10

Optionally, the handle loops of the bag may be threaded into respective opposed sides of the means 4 at each end of the grip portion 2, with the loops received within the keyhole-shaped eyelet 5 via the associated access slots 7.

15

Thus, in this alternative arrangement the grips 1 can be retained upon the handle loops of the bag when the latter is in a relaxed condition but, nevertheless, it can be removed readily therefrom by a user for re-use with another carrier bag.

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The grip 1 may be made from any suitable material but, preferably, from a moulded plastics material of suitable rigidity.

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CLAIMS

1. A handle grip which is preferably detachable and/or re-usable and which is suitable for use with a bag having a pair of handle loops, which grip comprises an elongate portion grippable by a hand of a user and means located at the ends of the elongate portion and arranged to receive respective ones of a pair of handle loops of a bag in spaced relationship with respect to one another.
2. A grip according to claim 1, wherein said means comprises an arrangement whereby, in use, the grip cannot be readily detached from the handle loops of a bag when the latter is in a relaxed condition, such that the grip does not become detached from the handle loops when the bag is not being carried by a user, although it can be detached therefrom by a user as and when necessary.
3. A grip according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said means comprises a generally hook-shaped member at each end of the grippable portion of the grip.
4. A grip according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the arrangement is provided by a or the hook-shaped member at each end of the grippable portion of the grip having an eyelet with a restricted access slot for preventing ready detachment of the grip from the handle loops of a bag in its relaxed condition.
5. A grip according to claim 4, wherein the eyelet is generally keyhole-shaped.
6. A grip according to any preceding claim, wherein at least the grippable portion is channel-shaped to

define a groove arranged to receive therein a pair of handle loops of a bag in generally side-by-side relationship.

5     7.   A handle grip which is preferably detachable  
and/or re-usable and which is suitable for use with a  
bag having a pair of handle loops, the grip comprising  
a portion grippable by a hand of a user, means  
10    arranged to receive the pair of handle loops of the  
bag and an arrangement for preventing ready detachment  
of the grip from the handle loops.

15    8.   A grip according to claim 7, wherein said means  
is arranged to receive a pair of handle loops of a bag  
in side-by-side relationship.

9.   A grip according to claim 8, wherein said means  
comprises a channel-shaped portion.

20    10.  A grip according to any preceding claim, made of  
a generally rigid plastics material.

25    11.  A handle grip substantially as hereinbefore  
described with reference to the accompany drawing.

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<b>Patents Act 1977</b> <b>Examiner's report to the Comptroller under Section 17</b> <b>(The Search report)</b>	<b>Application number</b> <b>GB 9417713.6</b>
<b>Relevant Technical Fields</b>  (i) UK Cl (Ed.M)      A4G (ii) Int Cl (Ed.5)      A45F 5/10  <b>Databases (see below)</b> (i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.  (ii)	<b>Search Examiner</b> <b>G NICHOLLS</b>  <b>Date of completion of Search</b> <b>27 SEPTEMBER 1994</b>  <b>Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-</b> <b>1-6, 10, 11</b>

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Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 2218901 A (CLARK) - whole document	1-3, 10
X	GB 2153212 A (GARVEY) - whole document	1-4
X	EP 0085524 A1 (PODES) - whole document	1, 3, 6, 10
X	WO 92/22229 A1 (SAMSON) - see especially Figure 1	1-3, 6, 10
X	US 4666203 (CASTRO) - whole document	1-3
X	US 3680752 (WILSON) - whole document	1, 3, 6, 10

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